

# Legislative Fiscal Bureau

## Fiscal Note

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HF 542 - Law Enforcement Academy Training (LSB 2207 HV)

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Fiscal Note Version — New

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### **Description**

House File 542 relates to law enforcement training of an individual who is not a law enforcement officer but who intends to become a law enforcement officer. A law enforcement agency may sponsor a candidate if that individual submits proof that they completed a two-year or four-year degree program, submits a letter of intent to accept employment with the sponsoring law enforcement agency or is hired by an agency within a twelve-month period of completing the course. The candidate must also be accredited by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy through testing.

### **Assumptions**

1. Currently, there are six locations that law enforcement officers can become certified in Iowa. The following entities have academies: Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines; Department of Public Safety; Western Iowa Technical Community College; and Hawkeye Technical Community College.
2. Hawkeye Technical Community College and Western Iowa Technical Community College are approved to conduct a short course study. Hawkeye Technical Community College had 37 persons attend the short program for FY 2000, 18 for FY 2001, and 27 for FY 2002. For FY 2003, 11 attended for the first semester. Western Iowa Technical Community College was approved to conduct the short course of study in February 2002 (FY 2003). No one attended Western Iowa Technical Community College short-program in FY 2002.
3. To participate in a short course, a person must have a two-year or four-year degree in criminal justice or police science. House File 542 assumes that a person may pay his or her own way through the short course or a local agency could continue with current practice and pay for the candidate's training.
4. If a significant number of candidates apply for law enforcement training certification prior to being hired by a law enforcement agency, the Academy estimates they would need to hire two support staff and one compliance officer. The cost for one additional Academy support staff person is \$39,000. The cost for one compliance officer to verify fulfillment of hiring standards is \$65,000. The total cost to the Department would be approximately \$153,000 and an increase of 3.0 FTE positions. Support costs would be an additional \$10,000 annually. The Academy may charge administration fees to make up the additional expenses at the time of application and at the time of certification.
5. The Law Enforcement Academy certified 345 officers in FY 2002, 325 officers in FY 2001, and 330 officers in FY 2000. These certifications were from attending one of the full Academy programs, the short course, or certification by examination.
6. The Iowa Law Enforcement Academy is 13 weeks. The community college short course is 8 weeks.
7. It is estimated that there are approximately 70 graduates a year in Criminology from the University of Northern Iowa. Northern Iowa is the only State University that offers Criminal Justice as a major. No response was received from the private 4-year colleges. In the 2001-2002 school year, there were 180 Associate Degrees awarded for Criminal Justice and Corrections and there were 73 Associate Degrees awarded for Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement.

8. The number of individuals who would apply for a short course before being hired by a law enforcement agency is unknown.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Due to insufficient information, the fiscal impact of HF 542 cannot be determined. However, if a significant number of candidates apply for law enforcement training certification prior to being hired by a law enforcement agency, the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy would be required to hire additional staff at a cost of approximately \$153,000 annually. It is estimated that the Academy may charge fees to offset their expenditures. Also, depending on the number of individuals that choose to take a short course at a community college, this could result in increased expenditures for additional faculty, training equipment, and classroom space. Community colleges may charge a fee to offset their expenditures.

### **Sources**

Iowa Law Enforcement Academy  
Community Colleges

/s/ Dennis C Prouty

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March 18, 2003

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The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.

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